LIBRARY

GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1946

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

R. SEED & SONS,
43 GUILDHALL STREET, PRESTON.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29254206

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Garstang Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present to you for your consideration my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The Vital Statistics are not available at present.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	57,189
Population (Census 1931)	11,562
Estimated Population, 1946	11,730
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	2,773
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1946 according to Rate Books	3,447
Number of Families, or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	2,796
Rateable Value	£75,154
Sum represented by a penny rate	£300

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Mostly agriculture, poultry farming, market gardening—which has increased during the last few years; two milk factories, one paper mill, one paper bag works, two cotton factories. A number of men are employed in the building trades and also a number of residents, owing to the good 'bus service, are employed in the neighbouring towns.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years				
1—5	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	1
10—15	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...
20—25	1	...	...	...
25—35	1	1	...	1
35—45	...	...	...	1
45—55	...	...	...	1
55—65	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	2	1	1	4
	3		5	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

During the year 1946 the scheme for the voluntary immunisation against diphtheria for all children in the district was still in operation.

The apparent decrease in the number of children immunised since 1942 is due to the fact that the bulk of the children of school age and under were immunised during the earlier years of the campaign, the figures for 1946 being, in the main, children under school age.

A scheme is now in operation whereby a birthday greeting card, together with literature dealing with the advantages of Immunisation against diphtheria, is sent to each child in the district on attaining one year of age.

The number of children immunised since 1941 is given below :

Age in years :	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Grand Total
1 to 5 ...	407	575	183	149	154	210	1678
5 to 15 ...	1318	1430	45	29	21	19	2862
Total each year	1725	2005	228	178	175	229	4540

All children who were originally immunised five years ago, are now being offered an opportunity of receiving a reinforcing dose to complete the treatment of defence against diphtheria and the response has been excellent.

The scheme is being continued by arrangement with local practitioners.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1946.

Total Cases Notified and Ages.

Disease	Total No. of Cases	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever... ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	18	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	2	7	2	...
Dysentery	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
Measles	16	...	...	1	...	2	9	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	28	...	6	10	3	4	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysepelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	
Totals ...	72	1	8	11	4	6	17	5	2	5	4	7	2	3

Note: Immunisation had not been carried out in the above Diphtheria cases.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Andrew B. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., part-time Medical Officer of Health.*

J. R. Blackledge, Sanitary Inspector.*

J. B. Cook, Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector, whole-time officer.

---

* 50 per cent. Exchequer contributions to the salaries of these officers under the Local Government Act, 1933.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council provide School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensary and Venereal Disease Treatment Centres, etc.

Milk samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Preston Royal Infirmary.

Water samples are sent to Manchester University.

Specimens of sputum, swabs and samples, etc., are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, and the Preston Royal Infirmary.

Six throat and nose swabs were sent for examination. None were found to give positive results.

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is provided for infectious cases by the Moss Side Isolation Hospital.

Accident cases are dealt with by the County Police, and ambulances are provided by the adjoining Borough of Preston and City of Lancaster.

Private ambulances are available as previously.

The Elswick Sanatorium has also a motor ambulance for tuberculous patients.

Emergency Maternity Units : The so-called " Flying Squads" are available from Lancaster and Preston, and ambulances for maternity cases are also available.

Nursing in the Home.

Three full-time midwives, who also visit in the homes non-infectious cases, are provided by Voluntary Nursing Associations.

Eight registered midwives are practising in the area, but not employed or subsidised by the Council.

The Council subscribe £5 to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities. The Council, when necessary, supply food and milk to expectant and nursing mothers.

Hospital Accommodation and Treatment.

Smallpox cases are sent to Elswick Sanatorium. Other infectious cases are sent by arrangement to Moss Side Hospital, Kirkham, at a fee of 12s. 0d. per day and 1s. 0d. per mile for the use of the ambulance. Patients who can be efficiently nursed at home are not removed to hospital. Disinfection is carried out after the removal of all infectious cases ; also on request from householders.

The arrangements you now have with the Fylde Joint Hospital Board are quite satisfactory.

Conclusion.

This concludes my Annual Report.

I would like to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and Clerk to the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the past year, 1946.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW B. TAYLOR,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
GARSTANG

To the Chairman and Members of the
Garstang Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year 1946.

WATER SUPPLY.

The bulk of the water supplied to the district is obtained from the Fylde Water Board, and is upland surface water of excellent quality. No complaints as to the quality of this water were received during the year.

The Council operate a small undertaking which supplies water to the village of Calder Vale, the water being taken from the Manchester Corporation Thirlmere pipeline, and distributed by the Rural District Council. This water, it is understood, is screened and chlorinated at the source, and is of good quality and has no plumbo-solvent action, but some incrustation of the cast-iron distribution mains has been observed. No complaints as to the quality of this water have been received.

Owing to there being insufficient head of water to supply by gravity all the properties in the village, and in consequence of the mains having become so encrusted as to require renewal, the Council have prepared a scheme whereby the existing arrangements will be discontinued, and a new supply distributed by the Fylde Water Board. The scheme has had the approval of the Lancashire County Council, and has been submitted to the Ministry of Health under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

There are a number of agricultural premises, including farmhouses, which have had Fylde water installed during the past year under the grant-aided scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

During the year five samples from private sources were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :

	Chemical	Bacteriological
Satisfactory ...	2	3
Unsatisfactory ...	3	2

In the case of two premises from which unsatisfactory samples were obtained the owners are contemplating installing water from the Fylde Water Board's mains and in one other instance the Council will be asked to consider an extension to the public main.

The number of dwelling houses with a piped supply, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

	Houses	Population
Private supplies	543	1825
Fylde Water Board ...	2938	9287
Thirlmere supply	103	420

In general the major part of the district is adequately supplied from public mains, and the Council have under consideration proposals to afford additional piped supplies, and every endeavour is made to persuade owners to install a public supply where this is at all practicable.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Since the 1st January, 1946, the Council have undertaken the removal of house refuse in all 20 parishes. This has involved the provisiion of two extra tips and the acquisition of an additional vehicle.

The arrangements for collection consist of one Dennis 12 cubic yard and one Bedford 7 cubic yard refuse collection vehicles, manned by six loaders and disposal is effected by means of a system of controlled tipping on six tips within the rural district.

The normal interval between collection is 14 days, with a more frequent collection in the case of certain premises having pail closets.

There are approximately 2,840 houses in the district which have separate ashbins and 1,029 pail closets.

Salvage is collected over the whole district by the Council's staff, the amounts for the past year and the preceding years being—

	1946			1945			1944		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	30	8	1	24	7	0	36	10	0
Rags, etc. ...	4	4	0	2	7	0	3	7	1
Bones ...	0	8	1	1	13	2	1	2	0

Public Health.

There are, as far as can be ascertained, approximately 2,338 houses provided with water closets within the district, there being over 1,000 properties with pail closets or privies.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year :

Sanitary Defects	46
Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc. ...	10
Verminous Premises	3
Water Supply	109
Drainage Works	24
Movable Dwellings	36
Factories and Workshops	61
Petroleum Stores	12
Refuse Tips	124
Salvage	26
Ditches, Watercourses	57
Rodent Control...	23
Sanitary Accommodation—	
Pails	13
Privies	15
Waterclosets	26
Food Premises	15
Dairies	132
Bakehouses	20
Cowsheds	132
Milk Samples	52
Water Samples	5
Knackers' Yards	6

Whilst it is still difficult to effect anything but absolutely necessary repairs to property, most defects are dealt with by a personal visit to the responsible person and a verbal notice. A small number of written intimation notices were served.

The following is a summary of Notices Served, etc. :

Interviews	96
Informal Notices	9
Statutory Notices	—

Food and Drugs.

Food-preparing premises of all types were inspected during the year, and have generally been found to be satisfactory. No written notices have been issued, any necessary works being done after verbal notice.

There are some 700 farms within the district, periodical inspections of which are carried out. Lime-washing has been found necessary in a number of cases, and has been executed after notice to the tenant farmer. Systematic sampling for bacteriological purposes of the milk retailed in the area is carried out, and milk supplied to schools is examined quarterly for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

There is one licensed pasteurising establishment in the district, and samples are taken at intervals of approximately two months. Regular inspections of the premises indicate that every endeavour is made to comply with the Food and Drugs Regulations. In addition to the above, one plant is licensed by the Minister of Food to subject milk to heat treatment under Defence Regulation 55 G.

All meat consumed in the Rural District is obtained from Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster ; there are no slaughterhouses in the district, since private slaughterhouses were closed in 1940. A large number of pigs are slaughtered under Ministry of Food licence for consumption by their owners, but no liability attaches to the owners to notify the time and place of slaughter, and these carcases are not inspected.

There is one licensed knackers' yard in the district, at Catterall. The premises are regularly inspected and have been found satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the samples of milk taken during the year for bacteriological examination :

Heat-treated milk, 5 samples :

Meth Blue		B. Coli		Phosphatase		Tuberculosis	
Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory
5	0	5	0	5	0	—	—

Untreated, 47 samples :

29	18	35	12	—	—	46	1

The sample reported T.B. positive was reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, and the affected animal was traced and slaughtered.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered, a certificate of unfitness being issued in each case :

Butter, 14 lbs.	Bread, 227 lbs.
Fish, 70 lbs.	Meat Pies, 9½ dozen.
Bacon, 3 lbs.	Beef, 6 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register ...	12
Number of New Licences issued	Nil
Number of Renewals	6

Housing.

Number of dwelling houses erected during the year :

(*a*) Total, including numbers given separately under (*b*)	32
(i) By Local Authority	32
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	1
(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By Local Authority	32
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—*

(1) (*a*) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1221
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	1221
(2) (*a*) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1221
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	1351
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	167

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 23

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

D.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

Canal Boats.

There are at present six canal boats plying on the canal, all being registered at Preston, where regular inspections are carried out. In the circumstances, no inspections have been made by this authority during the year.

Factories.

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ...	79	52	6	Nil

Defects Found in Factories.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Act	—	—	—	—
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	5	5	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act ...	—	—	—	—
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouses ...	—	—	—	—
Fire Escapes	—	—	—	—

Rodent Control.

In March, the services of the Council's Rodent Officer were dispensed with, since then complaints of rodent infestation have been dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector. The Council are, however, considering the appointment of a full-time operator.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to all members of the staff, and particularly to Mr. J. B. Cook, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable assistance and co-operation afforded to me during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. BLACKLEDGE.

April, 1947.